REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated March 11, 2003, claims 1 and 6-12 were pending in this application. Of those claims, claims 6-12 have been rejected. As the Examiner did not reject pending claim 1, Applicants can only assume that claim 1 is allowable in view of the applied prior art.

Claims 6-12 have been cancelled, and new claims 13-28 have been added. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, independent claim 13 finds support in Figs. 1 and 2 and page 13, lines 16-20 of the originally filed disclosure. Independent claim 14 finds support in Figs. 3 and 4 of the disclosure, and independent claim 15 finds support in Figs. 5-11 of the disclosure. Claims 16 and 24 find support in Fig. 12, Claims 17 and 25 find support in Figs. 13 or 14. Claims 18, 21 and 26 find support in Fig. 15, and claims 19-20, 22-23 and 27-28 find support in Fig. 16. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Morii et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,959,712; claims 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness based upon Morii et al.; and claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Morii et al. in view of Miyake, U.S. Patent No. 6,118,509

In the second through fifth enumerated paragraphs, claims 6-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103 based upon the above-identified applied prior art. As claims 6-12 have been cancelled, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections are moot.

New claim 13 is directed to a manufacturing process and is supported by the disclosure in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. As shown in Fig.2, the seal resin is hardened by irradiation of only one side, for example, the upper side of the first substrate 1. In such a situation, irradiation of the lower side of the second substrate 2 is not performed. If the irradiation is to the lower side of the second substrate 2, this irradiation does not reach the seal resin, as the seal resin is shielded from irradiation by the second shade film 3b on the second substrate 2. Claim 13 also recites that the first shade film and second shade film are formed to have a peripheral shading width formed by putting together the width of the first shade film and the width of the second shade film, and this limitation is supported by page 13, lines 16-20 of the specification.

New claim 14 is directed to a manufacturing process and is supported by the disclosure in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. As shown in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b), the seal resin includes first and second portions. The first portion 4 of the seal resin is shown in Fig. 4(a), and the second portion 4 of the seal resin is shown in Fig. 4(b). As shown in Fig. 4(a), the first portion of the seal resin is disposed between the first outside edge portions of the first substrate 1 and second substrate 2, and the ultraviolet rays radiated to the low side of the second substrate 2 can be transmitted to the first portion of the seal resin through the first outside edge portion of the second substrate 2. As shown in Fig. 4(b), the second portion of the seal resin is disposed between the second outside edge portions of the first substrate 1 and second substrate 2, and the ultraviolet rays radiated to the upper side of the first substrate 1 can be transmitted to the second portion of the seal resin through the second outside edge portion of the first substrate 1.

Depending on the structure shown in Figs. 4(a) and 4(b), the first portion of the seal resin is hardened by the irradiation of the low side of the second substrate 2, and the second portion of the seal resin is hardened by the irradiation of the upper side of the first substrate 1. As a result, the seal resin is hardened by irradiations to the two side of the combination of the first and second substrates 1 and 2.

New claim 15 is directed to a manufacturing process and is supported by the disclosure in Figs. 5-11. In these figures, a shade film on an outside edge portion of the first substrate 1 has a plurality of first slits 9a, and a shade material on the second substrate has a plurality of second slits 9b. The first slits 9a and the second slits 9b are arranged alternately between the first substrate 1 and the second substrate 2. Depending on such structure, the seal resin is hardened by irradiation to two sides of the combination with ultraviolet rays through the plurality of first slits 9a and the plurality of second slits 9b.

The applied prior art of Morii et al. discloses a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display device having a step of hardening a seal resin from two sides. However, in contrast to independent claims 13, 14 and 15, Morii et al. fails to teach or suggest that the manufacturing process include the step of providing a first substrate having a first shade film or a shade film and providing a second substrate having a second shade film or a shade material, as recited in the claims. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that the invention recited in new claims 13-28 is patentable over the applied prior art.

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. Accordingly, and in view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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